Cost of CNG Conversion Kit

861. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CNG is a safe, clean, burning and environment friendly fuel and toxic emissions such as lead and sulphur are completely eliminated and the existing petrol vehicle can use CNG by fitting a conversion kit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the average cost of converting a petrol car to CNG is about Rs. 35,000, and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to introduce subsidy for the capital expenditure of Rs. 35,000 for installation of kit for the first time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Curbing of Import of Petroleum Products

862. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India imports seventy per cent of its requirement of crude oil from abroad and only thirty per cent are met from indigenous sources;

(b) whether it is also a fact that we spend Rs. 35,000 crore in foreign exchange every year for importing petroleum products as average energy sorted is around 7.11 per cent; and

(c) if so, the details of Government plan to curb the import of petroleum products and also on reduction on subsidy on these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As against crude oil requirement of 65.18 million tonnes (MMT) in 1997-98 and 68.54 MMT in 1998-99, the